AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please revise the paragraph beginning on line 6 of page 3 as follows:

Therefore, it would be advantageous for an equal force bi-directional log splitter to be provided to increase the yield and production of the log splitting operation. It would also be an advantage to have this log splitter be small, convenient, and trailerable. It would be of special advantage if the cylinders were arranged to exert an equal lateral force, providing the same degree of compressibility in both directions.

Please add the following new paragraph on line 24 of page 4:

FIG. 1A is a side view of a splitting wedge in accordance with the invention;

Please revise the paragraph beginning on line 28 of page 6 as follows:

With combined reference to FIGS. 2 and 3, there is generally shown the log-splitting device of the present invention with the hydraulic ram in the first and second positions, showing how the two-way log splitter is utilized. As can be seen in both Figures, there are two splitting wedges 28, including a front splitting wedge and a rear splitting wedge. Looking to FIG. 2, the hydraulic ram 20 is shown abutting against the front splitting wedge 28. This leaves a cavity along the main beam 1 to receive a log which will be compressed against the rear splitting wedge 28. In phantom is shown the hydraulic ram as it is moved towards the rear splitting wedge. Now looking to FIG. 3, once the hydraulic ram 20 is in position against the rear splitting wedge, a log may be placed on top of main beam 1 and, as shown in phantom, the hydraulic ram is then moved forward along the guide rods by first and second hydraulic cylinders 10A and 10B to compress a log (not shown) against the front splitting wedge 28. The splitting wedges shown in

FIGS. 1 through 3 may preferably include an angled rake α (FIG. 1A) of from about 5° to about 25°, and may also include a four-way star-shaped wedge, adjustable up and down and capable of splitting a log into four pieces simultaneously. As shown in Fig. 1A, the splitting wedge 28 has a height of about 12 inches tall. At its maximum distance, hydraulic ram 20 has a gate opening distance between the opposite splitting wedge of from about 20 inches to about 60 inches. As the guide rods 2 are very secure, and prevent leverage effects during compression, this elongated gate opening is now possible.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 7 of page 11 as follows:

Looking next to FIG. 12, there is shown a four-way star-shaped splitting wedge which may be utilized with the present invention, in the place of the front and rear splitting wedges shown in FIGS. 1 through 10. Although the present inventor does not claim inventing the star-shaped splitting wedge, it is envisioned that this star-shaped wedge is useful in the present invention. The star-shaped splitting wedge is generally denoted by the numeral 80, and includes a wedge spacer 82 having wedge face plates or splitting wedges 86 extending forward therefrom. The forward most splitting wedge 85 is attached to the front of spacer wedge 82, and may extend forward as shown in FIG. 12, or may be an extension of the splitting wedges 86, as shown more fully hereinbelow with regard to FIG. 13. The horizontal splitting surfaces 88 and 89, respectively, may be utilized for splitting the wood in a horizontal direction in addition to the vertical direction which would be cut by splitting wedges 86.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 19 of page 11 as follows:

FIG. 13 again illustrates the star-shaped splitting wedge generally denoted by numeral [80] 180, including a spacer wedge [82] 182 having a front splitting ~~angled surface 86~~ wedge 186 and also having attached thereto, horizontal components ~~89 and 90~~ 189 and 190, respectively, which include a front splitting wedge surface angle [88] 188.